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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF BASE MATERIAL FOR GI TYPE OPTICAL FIBER AND PREFORM  
FOR GI TYPE OPTICAL FIBER THUS PRODUCED

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for reliably producing a base material  
for a GI type optical fiber having a GI type profile.

SOLUTION: The base material for a GI type optical fiber is produced by subjecting a porous glass base material to at least heat treatment for shrinkage and then subjecting the heat-treated porous glass base material to heat treatment for sintering in an atmosphere containing fluorine. The heat treatment for shrinkage is carried out at a fixed temperature of 1,150 to 1,210°C, preferably with  $\pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  accuracy. The heat treatment for sintering is carried out at a fixed speed of 5 to 10 mm/min at the time when the porous glass base material passes through a heating source which its speed is pref. controlled to  $\pm 0.5$  mm/min accuracy.

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